

~~line 25, change "(SEQ ID NO: 20)" to --(SEQ ID NO: 17)--;~~
~~line 33, change "preformed" to --performed--;~~
Page 72, line 4, after "Figure 7" insert --(SEQ ID NOs: 3-5)--;

~~IN THE CLAIMS~~

~~Please cancel Claims 1-12, 14 and 22-27 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:~~

B 2 sub C'
13. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 7 (SEQ ID NO: [*] 4) from about nucleotide 119 to about nucleotide 196, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the mature human mpl ligand having the biological property of stimulating proliferation, differentiation or maturation of cells containing human mpl.

B 3 sub C 2
15. (Twice Amended) [The] An isolated nucleic acid molecule [of Claim 11] which is DNA and comprises a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence SPAPPACDLRVLSKLLRDSHVLHSRL (SEQ ID NO: 2), the nucleic acid molecule encoding the mature human mpl ligand having the biological property of stimulating proliferation, differentiation or maturation of cells containing human mpl.

B
16. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim [11] 15 further comprising a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

17. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim [11] 15 operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

B 4
19. (Amended) A method of using a nucleic acid molecule encoding the *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] to effect production of the *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 18 and recovering the mpl ligand.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] is recovered from the host cell.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] is recovered from the host cell culture medium.